

NOTES FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

ON AN UNDESCRIBED SPECIES OF *CHILODACTYLUS*
FROM PORT JACKSON.

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CHILODACTYLUS MORWONG, sp. nov.

B. VI. D. 19-18/27-29. A. 3/16-17. V. 1/5. P. 8/7. C. 17.
L. lat. 55 on body 6 on tail. L. trans. 7/18-19.

Length of head 4·20, of caudal fin 4·70, height of body 3·20 in the total length. *Eyes*—diameter 5·00 in the length of the head, 2·66 in that of the snout, and 1·20 in that of the interorbital space, which is convex. The upper profile of the head is almost straight to above the posterior margin of the eye, whence it rises with a gentle convexity to the origin of the dorsal fin. The abdominal profile forms a sharp keel as far as the ventral fins. The upper jaw is rather the longer; the lips fleshy. The maxilla extends about two-thirds of the length of the snout. *Teeth*—in villiform bands in both jaws, with an outer enlarged row, the teeth composing which are of a conical shape and apart from one another. *Fins*—the dorsal fin is low, the fifth to eighth spines being the longest, and equal to a third of the length of the head; the notch between the spinous and soft portions slight: the second anal spine is rather longer, but equally as strong as the third: the ventrals do not quite reach to the anus: the second undivided pectoral ray is rather more than a third of the length of the body, and reaches to the fourth anal ray: the caudal is deeply forked. We were unable to detect any pyloric appendages. *Colors*—grey, darker above, most of the scales having golden reflections, a broad

dark band between the eyes ; a narrow violet band round the eyes ; all the fins, except the ventrals are darker in color than the body, and the dorsal and anal are ornamented with one or two rows of golden spots ; irides golden.

The example described was obtained in Botany Bay, on the 6th of the present month, is in fine condition, and measures 24·75 inches. It shewed no signs of breeding. Registered number I. 769. There is a second mounted specimen in the show collection from Port Jackson.

This species is the true "Morwong" of the Sydney Market, in contra-distinction to *Chilodactylus macropterus*, Rich., which is known as the "Jackass-fish." As a food fish either species equals any fish that is brought to market here.

Our fish is evidently the eastern analogue of *C. carponemus*, C. & V., and may be identical therewith, but in face of the meagre descriptions hitherto published of the Australian *Chilodactyli*, we fully describe this specimen, having come to the determination that we will admit as Australian no fish which has not been properly characterised.

We wish also to mention that through the kindness of Austin J. Cockle, Esq., M.B., the Australian Museum has during the past month become possessed of a fine specimen of the rare *Echeneis scutata*, Günth., from the Cape Seas.

NOTE.—The difference between this species, the true "Morwong," and the "Jackass-fish" of the Sydney Market (*Chilodactylus macropterus*, Rich.), having been pointed out several years ago by Dr. Ramsay, who exhibited specimens of each form both at the Melbourne Exhibition of 1880-1, and the International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883, under the respective names of *C. morwong* and *C. macropterus*, and as many specimens of the former species have been sent out by the Museum under the name of *C. morwong* we have considered it advisable to adhere to this name in place of that of *C. polyacanthus* employed in the monthly sheet of the Linnean Society of New South Wales ; more especially as "Morwong" was the name in use by the aborigines of Port Jackson.

NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Dr. Ramsay exhibited a number of very rare birds from Derby, North West Australia, recently collected in that district by Mr. Cairns. He particularly drew attention to the following:—*Poephila acuticauda*, *Poephila mirabilis*, *Donacicola pectoralis*, *Emblema picta*, *Estrela annulosa*, *Estrela ruficauda*, *Pacilodryas cerviniventris*, *Smicromis flavescens*, *Pardalotus rubricatus*, *Pardalotus uropygialis*, *Malurus coronatus*, *Malurus cruentatus*, *Cacatua gymnopsis*, *Climacteris melanura*, *Geophaps albiventris*, *Astur cruentus*, *Trichoglossus rubritorquatus*.

Mr. Douglas-Ogilby exhibited a photograph of *Chilodactylus morwong*, the fish described in Mr. Ramsay's and his paper.

Mr. Whitelegge exhibited under the microscope a fine gathering of Infusoria and Rotifers from the Waterloo Swamps, the most notable species being *Bursaria truncatella* Müller, *Stentor igneus* Ehr., *Hydatina senta* Ehr., *Euchlanis triquetra* Ehr., and *Asplanchna Brightwellii* Gosse. Specimens of the last-named species were also shown in spirits, having been killed by means of a mixture of spirits and chloroform with the *corona* fully extended.

Dr. Cox exhibited two fresh specimens of *Cypræa decipiens*, described by Mr. Edgar A. Smith in the Pro. Zool. Soc. Lon. for 1880, and made the following remarks. "The type specimen and till now the only specimen on record, is in the British Museum, and is 'in a worn state.' As Mr. Smith points out it is like a diminutive *C. thersites*. My specimens are all even smaller than the British Museum specimen, and the backs of all are characteristically high and humped. They have a flatter base than *C. thersites*, as pointed out by Mr. Smith, but the colour is darker than an orange-red, and almost amounts to a black with a tinge of red, doubtless owing to the specimens being quite fresh; the sides are quite as dark for fully two-thirds of their surface;

indeed one specimen is quite covered with this black-red porcellanous colouring. The apices of the backs of the shells as a rule are marked exactly as in *C. thersites*. None of my specimens show any disposition to be white upon either side of the aperture as is the case in that species. The teeth in them correspond in every way with Smith's description, but are very much darker, almost black. The interior is not white, but rather white with a bluish tinge; the teeth on the body whorl are dark red-brown, but just above the line of the teeth the surface is only stained lightly with brown. The interstices between the teeth are of the same dark colour as these, the number of which corresponds exactly with Smith's description. These specimens, which quite set aside any doubt which may have existed as to the validity of Mr. Smith's species, are from N.W. Australia, and were obtained from pearl-shell divers. It has been ascertained that the large green turtles feed on these molluscs, and some of my specimens show distinctly where they have been gripped by the sharp, powerful bills of these animals."

Mr. Masters exhibited a large collection of the magnificent Moth—*Nyctalemon Orontes*—from Cairns, Queensland. He also exhibited some eggs of what he believed to be the Painted Snipe, *Rhynchaea australis*.

Dr. Hurst exhibited some eggs which he had taken from a nest in a mangrove swamp, at Newington, with a view of ascertaining the name of the bird. Dr. Ramsay said he believed the eggs to be those of *Glyciophila ocellaris*.

Mr. Macleay exhibited the following new or rare reptiles and fishes collected by Mr. W. W. Froggatt, in the vicinity of Cairns, Queensland. SNAKES: *Tropidonotus picturatus*, Schlegel, *Dipsas Boydii*, Macleay, *Hoplocephalus assimilis*, Macleay, *Hoplocephalus nigrostriatus*, Krefft, *Nardoa crassa*, Macleay, and *Dendrophis bilorealis*, Macleay. LIZARDS: *Varanus ocellatus*, Gray, *Varanus* sp. ?, *Hinulia*, n. sp., four species of Geckotidæ unknown one with tail of remarkable width, and several other unknown lizards. FISHES: *Dules Haswellii*, Macleay, *Aristeus rufescens*,

Macleay, *Serranus lanceolatus*, Bleek. a species new to Australia, and a species of *Eleotris* probably undescribed, remarkable for its minute scales. Collected from the same district were a number of frogs, among which Mr. Fletcher pointed out examples of *Hyla dolichopsis*, *H. cerulea*, *H. Lesueurii*, *H. Peronii*, *H. nasuta*, *H. gracilentata* (?), *Limnodynastes ornatus*, and two other species not determined.

Professor Stephens exhibited for Mr. Percy Faithful two good examples of grinding stones used by the aborigines as mortars for crushing grain, obtained from Springfield near Goulburn.